



Kenya and FAO

Partnering to build resilience and food and nutrition security

Close cooperation between FAO and the Kenya Government predates the establishment of FAO's Representation in 1977. With a major and steadily growing country programme portfolio, today FAO is at the forefront of both development and emergency assistance to the country's agriculture-related sectors. Improving the performance and inclusiveness of the agriculture sector is a prerequisite for Kenya's progression towards a vibrant and sustainable economy.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN

KENYA

Established in 1977, the FAO Representation in Kenya is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Coping with drought

In the first quarter of 2017, 2.7 million people were classified as severely food insecure in Kenya. Up to three consecutive years of poor rains have led to diminished food production and exhausted people's coping capacities particularly in the northeastern, eastern and coastal areas of Kenya. Additionally, chronic and intensifying conflicts in the region have generally driven up displacement.

To face these challenges, FAO's interventions have included rapid provision of animal feed and water; the implementation of animal health programmes; injecting financial resources into local markets; de-stocking; and protection of core breeding herds, which provide a critical source of protein to communities' most vulnerable members. Projects have been funded through FAO's "Early Warning, Early Action" technical cooperation programme and the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Matching FAO's expertise to Kenya's development priorities

FAO assistance in Kenya is shaped by the four-year 2014-2017 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF). Aiming to boost agriculture's competitiveness and production, while increasing food security for Kenyans, the CPF focuses on five outcomes:

- Agriculture-based livelihoods and sectors are supported by an enabling policy, strategy and investment environment that promotes equality and inclusivity
- Productivity of medium-and small-scale agricultural producers is increased, diversified and aligned to markets
- Management of land, water and other natural resources is improved for enhanced food security and socio-economic development at national, county and community levels
- Livelihood resilience of targeted, vulnerable populations is improved
- Access to and use of information, innovation and a global pool of knowledge and expertise drives holistic growth in the agricultural sector

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant national development policies, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and National Food Security Strategy. It is also aligned with Kenya's UN Development Assistance Framework.

Building resilience among livestock-dependent households

Food insecurity and malnutrition are highly prevalent in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands. Interventions targeting livestock-dependent households have benefited livestock keepers in the counties of Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Kitui, Tana River and Garissa.

A socio-economic assessment of the impact of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and *peste des petits ruminants* is underway and, to date, over 1 million head of stock have been vaccinated.

Aiming to boost host communities' incomes and sustainable fuelwood supply, FAO undertook a charcoal value chain analysis in the Turkana region. The Organization has been working to mitigate the negative impact of heavy fuelwood requirements while engaging locally available skills, building capacity, and distributing 8 000 dual-purpose fuel-efficient stoves.



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Blue Growth and aquaculture

The recent approval of the Fisheries Management and Development Bill (2016) has expanded the mandate conferred to the State Department of Fisheries to be a "State Department of Fisheries and the Blue Economy".

The new law provides for the conservation, management and development of fisheries and other aquatic resources for the purpose of enhancing livelihoods and it provides guidance on importing and exporting fish and fish products, as well as on fish quality and safety. The law is also expected to pave the way for implementation of FAO's Port State Measures Agreement, which Kenya signed in November 2010 but has not yet ratified.

An Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) intervention has supported FAO-Kenya in the empowerment of small-scale aquaculture farmers through capacity building in aqua-business and the adoption of improved aquaculture technologies for increased production, particularly targeting youth and women.

Along the Kenyan coast, FAO is supporting Blue Growth initiatives by promoting technologies such as crab fattening, milkfish production, oyster culture and mangrove reforestation; training seaweed farmers to produce cosmetic and medicinal products as well as juice and salads.

Promoting good agricultural practices and conservation agriculture

Semi-arid lands within Kenya's Agricultural Climatic Zone 5 represent the country's next agricultural frontier. Jointly developed by the European Union (EU), IFAD and FAO, the Kenya Climate-Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Programme has been set up to increase productivity and profitability of smallholder farmers by promoting and up-scaling good agricultural practices and conservation agriculture in the country's productive semi-arid areas. The focus is therefore on water harvesting and conservation, natural resource management and climate-smart agriculture as well as the involvement of the private sector and financial institutions. By bringing inputs and services closer to farmers, the project has succeeded in increasing marketing activities and private sector participation, with about 3 500 farmers currently engaged in contract farming for a value of Ksh 3 billion.



Farmers in 3 500 farmer groups have been reached via on-farm capacity building, while more than 1 700 trainers, including extension workers, head farmers and county staff have also been trained. This has led to the adoption of good agricultural practices and conservation agriculture techniques by more than 24 000 farmers, with a significant positive impacts on yield and farmers' income.

Kenya is also a beneficiary of the Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in Africa, which aims to double rice production in the country by 2018. This example of South-South Cooperation with the Venezuelan Government should help Kenya to bridge the gap between production and demand in its rice sector.

Natural resource management

Through natural resources management projects related to land, water, forestry and climate change adaptation and mitigation, FAO-Kenya is developing institutional capacity at various levels. Officials have been trained on the legal framework for land governance while local awareness has been raised through land rights campaigns.

In 2010, the total net cumulative effect of deforestation was a loss of US\$19 million, with loss of agricultural production and damage caused by desertification. To counter this trend, FAO is implementing the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) to develop the productive and organizational capacity of smallholder forest and farm producer business organizations. In addition, FAO has launched a project, aimed at integrating agriculture into the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change.

Under the UN-REDD Programme, FAO is supporting the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) in the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) needed to assess the level of degradation and deforestation of vegetative land cover in Kenya.

Joint intervention within the Kalobeyei Settlement

A ground-breaking programme that aims to improve the living conditions of refugees and host communities in Turkana County has been launched by the EU, UN partners and county and national government representatives. Under the programme, 400 ha have been carved out specifically for agricultural production within the newly established Kalobeyei refugee settlement.

FAO will support host communities in implementing ten irrigation schemes and increasing the efficiency of agricultural production and diversification. This intervention is expected to benefit both the host and refugee communities (approximately 20 000 and 60 000 people, respectively).

In partnership with the World Food Programme and the Turkana County Government, FAO has selected facilitators to be trained in the Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology.

Kalobeyei Integrated Social and Economic Development Programme. Funded through the European Union Trust Fund for Africa. Implementing partners: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and FAO.

"Addressing the impacts of climate change ... is a necessary step to the hunger-free world and sustainable future we want."

José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General